Repercussion

written by DeadQuency

Genre: Psychological horror / Surrealist Gothic | **Format:** Short Film / Cinematic Sequence | **Scope:** Single Location / High-Concept / Independent | **Tone:** *Oppressive, Visceral, Atmospheric*

LOGLINE

When the boundary between oil paint and reality dissolves, a sleep-deprived painter must choose between completing the portrait that has come to life or destroying her entire world to silence it.

SYNOPSIS

Ava, a brilliant but fractured artist on the verge of a breakdown, is trapped in her studio with her latest creation: Ilia. He is more than a portrait; he is a sentient entity fed by Ava's guilt and insomnia. As Ilia crawls out of the linen and the charcoal forests of her other canvases begin to "exhale" into the room, Ava realizes her creations are no longer metaphors—they are predators seeking a way out. In a final act of desperate catharsis, Ava chooses to ignite her studio, discovering that while canvases burn, certain truths are immortal.

THEMATIC PILLARS

- **The Burden of Creation:** An exploration of the artist's moral responsibility toward the "life" they give to their work.
- **Edited Truths:** Ilia represents the parts of Ava's past she tried to "paint over" but failed to suppress.
- **Art as a Living Substrate:** A reimagining of the medium not as a tool, but as a biological, sentient prison for memories.

VISUAL & AUDITORY STRATEGY

- **Visual (Chiaroscuro & Texture):** High-contrast lighting inspired by Caravaggio. Ilia's skin features a matte, dried-oil texture. His movements utilize a "shutter-drag" effect (motion blur) to emphasize his non-physical nature. The color palette shifts from sickly amber to corpse-grey, ending in a violent, purifying orange.

- **Auditory (ASMR Horror):** A hyper-focused soundscape. The dry *skritch* of a brush evolves into rhythmic breathing. The sound of footsteps is "tacky" and wet, as if walking on fresh paint, contrasting with the bone-snapping sounds of the forest within the canvas.

PRODUCTION VALUE & STRATEGY

- **Location:** Minimalist. A single-room studio allows for a concentrated budget on production design and lighting.
- **Practical FX:** Focus on "Painterly Makeup" for Ilia and practical fire effects, supplemented by subtle VFX for the "breathing" walls and liquid shadows.
- **Performance:** A heavy emphasis on physical acting and micro-expressions to convey the claustrophobic tension.

Proposed Festival Strategy

(Strategically targeted for premier genre and independent circuits upon completion)

- **Sundance:** Midnight Shorts Program.
- **Sitges:** New Visions / Fantastic Genre category.
- **SXSW:** For its intersection of high-concept narrative and innovative visual style.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DeadQuency is an MA student of Dramatic Literature, specializing in the intersection of dramatic structure and psychoanalytic theory. He/She strives to translate complex psychological abstractions into visceral, immersive cinematic moments that challenge the audience’s perception of reality.

Contact
Email: shivaasd76@gmail.com / Instagram:@deab_.quency_

© 2026 DeadQuency. All Rights Reserved.